

55-M

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Action

SS

Control: 2989

Rec'd: November 8, 1962

7:01 p.m.

Info

FROM: New York

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1687, November 8, 6 p.m.

PRIORITY

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION S/S - DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

STEVENSON REVIEWED STATUS CUBAN SITUATION THIS MORNING WITH NATO, CENTO AND SEATO AMBASSADORS PLUS JAPAN, CHINA AND KOREA. BRIEFING FOLLOWED LINES MONDAY'S TALK TO LA'S. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF TALKS WITH RUSSIANS HE TOLD GROUP ABOUT GENERAL STATUS INCOMING AND OUTGOING SEA INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS AND ABOUT DIFFICULTIES WE HAVING WITH USSR ON PROBLEM OF IL-28'S, WARHEADS AND BOTH ON-SITE AND CONTINUING INSPECTION. STATED US INSISTS ON FULL SOV PERFORMANCE ON UNDERTAKINGS IN KENNEDY/KHRUSHCHEV EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. TO COUNTER GA RUMORS THAT US POSITION WILL "SOFTEN" AND BECOME "MORE REASONABLE" AFTER ELECTIONS, STEVENSON STRESSED ELECTIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH US ATTITUDE. STRESSED "ENORMITY" OF SOV MILITARY EFFORT IN CUBA AND SERIOUS STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES IT MIGHT HAVE HAD.

QUESTIONS FOLLOWING BRIEFLY FAIRLY GENERALIZED BUT REVEALED CONCERN WITH POSSIBLE SEQUESTRATION NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DIFFICULTY ADEQUATE VERIFICATION.

[SUGGESTED POSSIBLE SC DIFFICULTY WITH "AT LEAST ONE MEMBER" IN SUPPORTING SOV POSITION ON IL-28'S IF SOVS CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO REMOVE THEM. POSSIBILITY CUBAN OWNERSHIP AND THOUGHT THAT US DEFENSES MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO NULLIFY ANY THREAT FROM THESE BOMBERS CITED BY [] AS REASONING BEHIND POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEM ON THIS ITEM. STEVENSON AND MCCLOY INDICATED BOMBERS HAD EXTENSIVE RANGE, IN PARTICULAR FOR ONE-WAY MISSIONS, WERE CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WERE NO OLDER THAN OUR B-47'S AND THAT MANY LA STATES WOULD HAVE NO ADEQUATE DEFENSE AGAINST SUCH BOMBERS, EVEN WITH CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

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ALSO POINTED UP STRENGTH US POSITION IN THAT OUR
GUARANTEE TO CUBA TIED TO FULL PERFORMANCE US/USSR
UNDERTAKINGS AND NEED NOT BE GIVEN UNLESS US SATISFIED.
UNLESS USSR GETS THIS GUARANTEE FOR CUBA, THEY HAVE
"COMPLETE FAILURE" AND COME OUT WITH NOTHING. THEREFORE
WE STILL HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL WEAPON IN OUR HANDS.

AT END OF MEETING STEVENSON ASKED MEMBERS NOT TO REVEAL
ANYTHING TO PRESS BUT TO SAY ONLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN
GENERAL REVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION AND THAT THEY HAD NO
COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION. STEVENSON

LTR/14

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